

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

July 15, 2009

In attendance at the July 15, 2009 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, Rachel Gear, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Dolores Baronas and Paula Ferguson. Absent was Larry Ryan and Caryn Stevens.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30 by Chairman John Ellard.

Dolores passed out to our new members the Conflict of Interest Law, Sexual Harassment policy, Open Meeting Governmental Bodies and the Public Records Law. Acknowledgement cards were signed and will be given to the Town Clerk.

The minutes of June 17 were read and approved with one exception, Joe Gambon was listed as being in attendance at that meeting and he was not. A motion was made to approve as amended by Bob MacDonald and seconded by Rich Penney, a unanimous vote.

There were requests for interdepartmental transfers. The first one was from Traffic Lighting to Street Lighting in the amount of \$3354.17. A motion was made by Joe Gambon, second by Rich Penney, unanimous vote

A transfer request from the Health Insurance Account to Liability in the amount of \$9958.22. A motion to approve was made by Bob MacDonald, second by Joe Gambon, unanimous vote.

A transfer request from the Health Insurance Account to the Tax Collector in the amount of \$12,000 for the supplemental tax bill and software charges. A motion to approve was made by Rich Penney, second by Rachel Gear, unanimous vote.

A transfer request from Health Insurance Account to Beech Street landfill in the amount of \$2200. A motion to approve was made by Bill Allen, second by Joe Gambon, unanimous vote.

A transfer request from the Health Insurance Account to the Traffic Light Account in the amount of \$3200. A motion to approve was made by Rich Penney, second by Bob MacDonald. A unanimous vote.

A transfer request from Studley Pond Dam to the Beech Street Article in the amount of \$1627.50. A motion to approve was made by Rich Penney contingent on the Board of Selectmen approving this transfer, second by Rachel Gear. A unanimous vote. The incorrect amount was approved by the Board of Selectmen of \$375 and will be revoked at their next meeting on August 3, 2009.

A discussion was made regarding the new lists of liaisons for each department. It was decided that the experienced members will take a new member with them to go over their department's budget. The following departments were assigned and will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Joe Gambon will be the liaison for the Fire Department, Highway, Tree Department, Visiting Nurse, Board of Health and Youth Commission. Bob MacDonald will be the liaison for the Police Department, Emergency Management, Veteran's. Paula Ferguson will be the liaison for the Board of Selectmen, John Ellard for the Schools, Dolores Baronas for the Library. Additional departments will be assigned at our next meeting. It was suggested to have a list of questions pertinent to their specific budget to ask the department head.

Capital Planning was discussed as being a Board that approves items of \$50,000 or greater and with a useful life of more than five years. Currently there are 2 finance committee members on this Board who are John Ellard and Joe Gambon.

Rich Penney gave an synopsis of the progress of the School Building Committee. They are currently looking at Option 4 which is having the Middle School attached to the High School, with the high school having complete renovations. This option was presented to the MSBA who asked for a few modifications to the design. The two schools would share common spaces such as the library, auditorium, etc. It will cost a total of \$81 million with \$35 million being the responsibility of Rockland . It will have a 24 year tax increase, years 1-4 will be a gradual increase and then the next 20 years would have an approximate increase of \$437 per year on an average house assessed at \$300,000.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 6:30 at the lower conference hall in the Town Hall. We will go over liaisons and listing questions to present to department heads.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 with a motion made by Bob MacDonald, second by Joe Gambon. Unanimous vote.

The total in the reserve fund is \$35,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee